

## AUTHOR AND DIRECTOR

**Hugues Nancy** is the author and director of documentary films. He is skilled in portraying great human beings and artists. Nancy directed the documentary *Picasso, the Legacy*, which he wrote with Olivier Widmaier-Picasso in 2014. This 110-minute film about the life and work of Pablo Picasso was produced by Gedeon Programmes for ARTE. It was awarded "Best Portrait" at Fifa in Montreal in 2014 and brought its distributor, Terranoa, the "Export Award" in the documentary category, from TVFI in 2015.

## SCIENTIFIC ADVISOR

**Dominique Maricq**, scientific and editorial consultant.

An expert on Hergé, Dominique Maricq is the scientific and editorial consultant for the documentary. Maricq, a former French secondary school teacher, has written more than a dozen books on the life and work of Hergé, as well as hundreds of articles and texts on the same topic. Dominique Maricq has been a lecturer, author and archivist at the Studios Hergé since 1997 and is also a member of the Authentication Committee for the work of Hergé and editor of the *Amis du Musée Hergé* magazine.

## PARTICIPANTS

**Philippe Goddin** (Belgium), specialist of Hergé and his work. Author of *Hergé, chronologie d'une œuvre* and *Hergé - Lignes de vie*.

**Michael Farr** (Great-Britain), former reporter at Reuters. Specialist of the work of Hergé and translator of *The adventures of Tintin*.

**Benoît Mouchard** (France), former artistic director of the Festival of Angoulême comic strip festival, currently comic strip editorial director at Casterman. Co-author of *Hergé, portrait intime du père de Tintin*.

**François Schuitten** (Belgium), cartoonist, writer, poster artist, illustrator and exhibition designer. Schuitten is among the most brilliant cartoonists of Belgian comics.

**Cécile Maisonneuve** (France), Doctor of history of art and member of the scientific Council of RMN-Grand Palais. Co-curator of the exhibition '*Hergé artist*' scheduled at the Grand Palais in Paris in the autumn of 2016.

**Joost Swart** (the Netherlands), illustrator, poster artist and comic strip artist. Coined the term "Clear Line" during an exhibition about Hergé in 1977. Swarte became one of the most prominent proponents of this graphic style.

**Pierre Fresnault-Deruelle** (France), specialist of image semiotics, Professor Emeritus at Paris-Sorbonne University, specialist in comics and paintings.

**Frédéric Peeters** (Switzerland), comic-strip author and writer. Peeters' albums have received many awards at the Angoulême comic strip festival (Series Lupus - RG - Aâma).

**Andreas C. Knigge** (Germany), journalist. Among the top German comic-strip specialists, of the Franco-Belgian school in particular.

### Delivery

Broadcasting of the documentary on Arte  
Opening of the exhibition at RMN-Grand Palais in Paris  
Release of the multilingual DVD

Late July 2016

Autumn 2016

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Present

# HERGÉ, IN THE SHADOW OF TINTIN

The struggle between an artist and his work



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## PRODUCTION

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Rare archive material tells the story of one of the biggest artists of the twentieth century

Author and director: Hugues Nancy  
A GEDEON Programmes & Moulinsart SA, Arte, RTBF & RMN co-production

52'

# HERGÉ

## In the shadow of Tintin The struggle between an artist and his work

### PITCH

*Hergé in the Shadow of Tintin* is the story of a genius whose creation became so popular that it eclipsed the creator himself. The viewer will be immersed in Hergé's work; through a deconstruction of Georges Remi's creative processes, our documentary film will depict this artist in a whole new light.

### FILM

A few months before his death, Hergé spoke frankly (conversation with Benoît Peeters, December 1982): "What if I told you that I put my whole life into Tintin?"

At the outset of his career he would not have known it, but by the end of his life Hergé had dedicated almost everything to his star character. To justify his wish for Tintin's adventures not to be continued by any other author after his death, Hergé once said: "Tintin is me. My eyes, my lungs, my feelings, my guts!"

Georges Remi (who became known as Hergé - the sound of his initials reversed) has gone down in history as the creator of Tintin. He is a major twentieth-century artist, ranking alongside those of his time who contributed to the contemporary art movement.

### Creation overshadows creator

In portraying the artist Hergé we recount the story of a pioneer whose groundbreaking work led to the emergence of a whole new form of art. Without Hergé and *The Adventures of Tintin* (250 million copies sold to date), the world of comic strips today might look very different.

Tintin is a comic strip character who grew to be **universally known and loved**, completely **overshadowing his creator** as he became a hero to several generations of children in Europe and beyond. The genius of Hergé's creation is that it was and still is adored by people who do not even like comic strips. But the runaway success of his character proved too much for Hergé to handle as he found himself a slave to his creation. The story of Tintin is also therefore **the story of the struggles of his creator**.



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### Hergé, trailblazer

Hergé pioneered a style which became an entire school of comic strip art: the "Clear Line". His use of **colours and forms without shadow** was groundbreaking. The artist used **techniques from the cinema** as he fashioned his stories - camera angles, sequences, cliffhangers, suspense - and populated his stories with characters worthy of any blockbuster. By the 1930s, while his colleagues still scribbled for newspapers Hergé's work was being published in high-quality books. His work helped to raise the profile of comic strips among initially sceptical critics.

### From still to moving images

Animated cartoons were still at a very early stage at the time when Hergé turned to the question of transforming **his drawings into moving images**. But despite great effort and **diverse techniques** including rolling fixed images, puppets, animation and live action, the creator of Tintin was never really satisfied with the results. Ultimately Georges Remi was not around to see his star character animated by **Steven Spielberg**, who's team used cutting-edge motion-capture technology to blend together animation and live actors to bring to life, as faithfully as possible, some of the most exciting adventure stories in history.



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### Tormented artist

Beyond Tintin, Hergé created more than **ten different series** (For example *Quick and Flupke* and *Jo, Zette and Jocko*). But Tintin was by far the most popular and, much to both Hergé's happiness and great frustration, from 1929 most of his career was spent working on the adventures of **his immortal hero**, who would always stay young and fresh-faced.

Perhaps as a way to claw back some of the time that Tintin took from him, **Hergé reflected parts of his own life in Tintin's adventures**. In public the artist appeared relaxed and confident while in private he was in fact a **tormented** person, overwhelmed by his work and keenly interested in spirituality - constantly in search of perfection. Georges Remi was more complex than he first appeared; like many celebrities, he did not find much comfort in fame.

This is the story that we would like to tell - with the assistance, participation and exceptional archives of the Studios Hergé and Moulinsart SA - in great detail in a documentary accompanying **the opening of the Hergé, Artist exhibition in the autumn of 2016, at the Grand Palais in Paris**.